

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

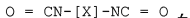
1. (Currently amended) A collagen free cosmetic preparation, ~~which can be obtained by cross-linking of~~ comprising swollen aqueous solutions of chitosans and  $\beta$ -(1,3) glucans cross-linked with diisocyanates, ~~and/or~~ dialdehydes or a combination thereof.

2. (Currently amended) A method of preparing collagen free cosmetic preparations, comprising admixing a swollen aqueous solution of chitosans with an aqueous solution of  $\beta$ -(1,3) glucans, adding a cross-linking agent selected from the group consisting of ~~diisocyanates~~ diisocyanates and dialdehydes, and removing water from the mixture.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein chitosans with molecular weights in the area from 10,000 to 1,200,000 Daltons are used.

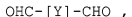
4. (Currently amended ) The method according to claim 2, wherein water soluble  $\beta$ -(1,3) glucans are utilized, which are substantially free from  $\beta$ -(1,6) linkages.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein diisocyanates with the formula (I)



wherein in which X represents a linear, ~~or~~ branched, naphthenic or aromatic hydrocarbon residue with 1 to 12 carbon atoms, are utilized.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein dialdehydes with the formula (II)



wherein in which Y represents a linear, ~~or~~ branched, naphthenic or aromatic hydrocarbon residue with 1 to 12 carbon atoms, are utilized.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the cross-linking agents are selected from the group consisting of hexamethylene diisocyanate and glutaric dialdehyde.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein polyols are added to the mixture and are selected from the group consisting of glycerol, alkylene glycols, oligoglycerol mixtures of technical quality, methylol compounds, low alkyl glucosides, sugar alcohols, sugars and amino sugars.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein natural and/or synthetic fibers are added to the mixture.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the water is removed from the mixture by freeze-drying.

11. (New) A collagen free cosmetic preparation obtained by cross-linking swollen aqueous solutions of chitosans and  $\beta$ -(1,3) glucans with diisocyanates, dialdehydes or a combination thereof.